**Project Briefing - Items to consider including:**

**Group Number: 4**

**System: Lawson**

**Group members:**  
Lee Farabaugh

Eric Lott

Tom McLoughlin

Ashwini Patki

**Project manager: ???**

1. **Accomplishments/ Progress** to date: Gathering information of Materials management systems from various articles, Lawson’s website and searching for various materials management systems

We have discovered that Lawson has a number of software solutions. We are planning to focus on the supply chain solution, because that is what UAB focuses on in a partnership with Cardinal Health.

**Healthcare Supply Chain Information:**

Hospitals want to optimize their supply chains for a variety of reasons:

* stocking pharmaceuticals and supplies ties up a lot of capital
* labor costs to maintain materials supplies are significant
* availability and timely delivery is important
* supplies need to be tracked for billing
* patient safety depends on right medication to right person at right time

Aspects of supply chain management

* pharmacy
* OR
* materials

Technologies currently in use:

* bar code scanning
* automatic dispensing machines (ADMs) that can be monitored remotely, with a picture taken every night and a PO created from that picture
* GS1 System – a standard of global and unique identification of products and locations as well as continuous, automatic updates of standardized product information across all supply chain partners. It involves applying data standards to patients, processes, and products to eliminate errors, cases of unavailability, and improve service level quality and efficiency.

Supply chain is part of a larger Enterprise Resource Management program, which includes accounting, supply chain, and human resources. As such, Lawson is an ERP vendor.

Benefits of Lawson Supply Chain Management suite:

* reduced process and supply costs through centralized purchasing
* lower inventory costs
* reducing steps in the procurement process
* improving decision making with metrics

1. **Issues** encountered and proposed resolutions:

We are unable to find much information about Lawson such as specific information about the software’s features, architecture, cost, technology platform, etc on their website. We may have to use the information about such systems from various scholarly articles and research papers. We would appreciate any guidance about how to access more resources to find information particularly about Lawson. We hope that on-site visit with users at UAB would rather be much more helpful in knowing more about the system.

1. **Contribution(**s) of each group member: So far everyone is reading and trying to find about Lawson. In next week we plan to host a Webex meeting for our group to discuss how we are going to proceed with the project and each one will have more defined set of responsibilities, either individually or in sub-groups.
2. **Questions** for which you cannot/have not find an answer:
   1. What kind of system architecture does Lawson use?
   2. How does Lawson interface with other systems?
   3. Is Lawson the leader in this space?
   4. How interrelated are the various ERP products that Lawson sells?
   5. What does the interface look like?
   6. Who primarily uses this system in the facility? How does the role differ for someone in accounts, contracts, and a clinical user?
3. Any **risks** to your group project deliverable: meeting frequently with group members
4. **General Comments/Connections** you’ve made between this course and either HI 601, HI 640 or HI 600. The idea is that you’ll begin to see the relevance between the courses.

We see a lot of overlap between this system and the business process redesign topics we covered in HI-640, such as Lean, Six Sigma, etc.

We are also seeing that a Lawson implementation is larger than the software itself, and involves some culture change, standardization of practices and coding, and workflow changes to accommodate the system. It’s not unlike CPOE in this way.